

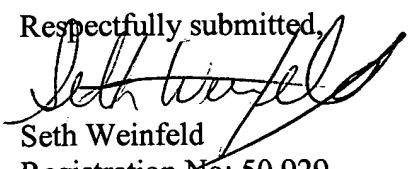
REMARKS

The Applicant has filed the present Response in reply to the outstanding Official Action of November 12, 2004, and the Applicant believes the Response to be fully responsive to the Official Action for reasons set forth below in greater detail.

At the onset, we would like to note that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 4-6, 10-12 and 16-18 have allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16, and 17 have been amended in independent form including all of the rejected base claims.

Claims 1-3, 7-9 and 13-15 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added by the aforementioned amendments.

Based upon the foregoing amendments, the Applicant believes that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance and henceforth respectfully solicits the Examiner to allow the application. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite the allowance of this application, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned, Applicant's attorney, at the following telephone number: (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

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